CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuring a machine vision system over a network, the machine vision system including a heterogeneous set of vision processors (VPs) and at least one host having a user interface (UI), the method comprising:

sending VP characteristic information over the network from a VP to a host having a UI; and

using the UI to configure the VP via the network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a plurality of VP characteristics.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a plurality of VP identification codes; and

a plurality of functions executable on the VP.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a VP identification code.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

an executable program.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the executable program is adapted to configure a plurality of VP functions and parameters.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the executable program is run on a thin client so as to provide a UI.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a plurality of VP identification codes.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a plurality of functions.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein sending VP characteristic information over the network includes:
connecting to the VP using a thin client.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the thin client is a web browser.